(e) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (c) and (d) above.

Increase in the write off limit of bad debts by banks

115. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Commercial Banks have been allowed to write off individual bad debts to the tune of Rs. 25 lacs in place of Rs. 25,000/- only, as at present;

(b) if so, the reasons for the ten times increase in this limit; and

(c) the steps contemplated to prevent misuse of the enchanced limit facility to the detriment of the public interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that no such instruction have been issued to commercial banks.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of the reply to (a) above.

Representation received from leather Chemicals Manufacturers' Association

116. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a representation has been received from Leather Chemicals Manufacturers' Association about the adverse impact of relxation in import duties on finished products and increase in excise duties on indigenous products;

(b) if so, what was their precise plea and what is the difference in average prices of indigenous products and corresponding imported items, inclusive of all duties and costs involved in imports; and

(c) what is the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Association has requested for the following changes;

(i) Imposition of Countervailing duty on leather chemicals specified in Notification No. 45/94-Customs dated the 1st March, 1994.

(ii) To allow import of raw materials and intermediates for manufacture of leather chemicals at concessional rates of import duty; and

(iii) Restriction on import of leather chemicals and their raw materials to actual users through appropriate control mechanism.

As per information readily available, the reported prices in respect of some of the leather chemicals are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See below*)

(c) That matter is under examination.

Statement

Sr. No.	Name of Leather Chemical	Local price of Indigenous Chemical in Rs/Kg	Equivalent Imported Chemical	Landed cost of imported chemical in Rs/Kg
1	Pigments PPE Deep Black	78	Black	90.5
2	Wax Emulsion	27.45	FI- 50	90.8
3	Resin Binders	69.7	RA--I	97
4	Lacquers	96.5	Unithane 59D	163.4
5	Non PCP Preservative	100	Busan 30 L	497
6	Synthetic Fat Liquor	65	Ossipol LN	83.8
7	Synthetic Fat Liquor	52.1	Lipsol E	61
8	Synthetic Fat Liquor	68	Neopristol SW	81.3
9	Resins Syntans	54.85	Locutan 50	168
10	Dyes-non Benzidine	398	D--Black	561.32
11	Syntan	51.56	Tanigan 5	40.96
12	Casein Binder	87.36	Deabind 1430	38.37
13	Acrylic Binder	63	Acrilem	38.4
14	Dye	584.31	Derma Dark Brown 2R	415.84
15	Lacquer	133.6	Icalac	102
16	Fat liquor	64.87	Dermol	51.6

Note: Prices are of representative varieties and will vary from manufacturer to manufacturer.

Conversion of fast disbursing programmes of loans into special project loans

117. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all fast-disbursing programmes of loans from the World Bank are expected to be converted into special project loans;

(b) if so, whether this move is a part of new strategy worked out by the Finance Ministry in view of the adequate forex reserves;

(c) whether the strategy will rely on further cleaning up the portfolio of loans from the World Bank so that the total external debt comes down and only meaningful and viable projects get bank assistance;

(d) if so, whether any concrete decision in this regard has been worked out;

(e) if so, to what extent his has helped the Indian Government; and

(f) whether the World Bank has also released 3 programme loans during 1994-95, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE